

PES-0043

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Page 13, line 18 – Page 14, line 10, as follows:

Suitable porous supports include screens, perforated sheets, pierced sheets, discretely etched sheets, sintered metal cloth, or woven mesh formed from metal or continuous strands of metal. In the alternative, the porous supports can comprise sintered powder or granular metal particles. Materials suitable for the porous supports comprise materials that are non-oxidizable at anodic potentials of less than about 4 volts. The porous supports are preferably non-oxidizable in electrochemical cell environments, and include but are not limited to materials such as niobium, zirconium, tantalum, titanium, steels such as stainless steel, nickel, and cobalt, and the like, and alloys and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing metals; ceramics, such as alumina; and mixtures comprising at least one of the foregoing metal and ceramic support materials. These materials are particularly useful to achieve a porous support having little or no lateral porosity (i.e., in the direction parallel to the major surface (face) of the membrane electrode assembly). Generally, the supports comprise flat sheets or structures of some other substantially flat form, typically about 0.005 to about 0.1 inches (about 0.127 and about 2.54 mm) thick, preferably about 0.005 to about 0.01 inches (about 0.127 and about 0.254 mm) thick.

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